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It is so terrible. I want to see them stop. They have done tit for tat. Hopeful they can stop now
Donald Trump, US president

We call on India and Pakistan to prioritise peace and stability, remain calm and restrained
Chinese foreign ministry

We hope the differences will be resolved through peaceful, political and diplomatic means
Russia's foreign ministry

We call on India and Pakistan to exercise restraint to avoid escalation and protect civilians
Jean-Noel, French FM

Pakistan reserves the right to respond appropriately at a time and place of its choosing
Pak foreign ministry

PAHALGAM AVENGED

● Precision strikes on nine terror camps of LeT, JeM and Hizb in Pakistan and PoK from 1.04 am ● No military or civilian infra attacked
● Govt works the phones to brief major international leaders ● Pak calls it a heinous act of aggression, says resolute response underway

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

A fortnight after the horrific Pahalgam massacre that shook up the nation like never before, India launched Operation Sindoor in the wee hours of Wednesday, hitting nine terrorist sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The "precision strikes" by missiles were against the terror infrastructure alone in Pakistan. An official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi monitored the operation against Pakistan through the night.

The camps that faced Indian fury in Pakistan across the International Border were Markaz Subhan Allah at Bahawalpur, Markaz Taiba at Murdike, and Mehmoona Joya and Sarjal at Tehra Kalan in Sialkot.

The other five were inside the PoK across the Line of Control (LoC) — the Markaz Abbas in Kotli and Syedna Bilal camp in Muzaffarabad (all of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed), Markaz Ahle Hadith at Barnala and Sawai Nalla camp also at Muzaffarabad (all of banned Lashkar-e-Toiba) and Markaz Raheel Shahid in Kotli (of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen).

OPERATION SINDOOR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hails the armed forces for targeted strikes at terror camps in Pakistan and PoK

"Our actions have been focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature. No Pakistani military facilities have been targeted. India has demonstrated considerable restraint in selection of targets and method of execution," the defence ministry statement stated.

These steps came in the wake of the Pahalgam terrorist attack in which 25 Indians and a Nepali citizen were gunned down. "We are living up to the commitment that those responsible for this attack will be held accountable," the ministry said.

Senior Indian officials later briefed their counterparts in a number of countries, including the US, UK, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Russia on the attack.

The operation was jointly conducted by the Army and the Air Force with the Indian Navy on high alert as their warships were positioned into the international waters so as to respond if required.

On the details of the weaponry utilised, while the sources did not provide specific information, they confirmed that "standoff" weapons were used. Rafale jets are equipped with Scalp and Hammer missiles, both capable of being launched from a standoff distance. The Scalp is an air-launched cruise missile with a range of up to 250 km, while the Hammer is designed for precision ground strikes from long distances.

For its part, Pakistan claimed 31 civilian casualties — 26 from missile attacks and five due to artillery attack along the LoC. Indiscriminate artillery fire from Pakistan hit the civilian areas in Poonch and Tangdhar sectors, killing at least 13 people, including a woman and two minor girls. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack as a "heinous act of aggression", saying, "a resolute response is already underway."

Compared with the 2019 Balakot strike, India was better prepared this time. The defence ministry's press release came within minutes of the precision strikes getting over.

REPORTS: P4,5,9,10

People burst firecrackers and wave the Tricolour as they hail Operation Sindoor that took out terror camps in Pakistan and PoK, in Prayagraj on Wednesday | PTI

Strikes kill 10 family members of Masood Azhar

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

SEVERAL family members and close associates of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) founder Masood Azhar were killed in the precision airstrikes carried out by the India on Wednesday morning on terror infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

According to Pakistan media reports, Masood Azhar released a statement admitting that 10 of his family members—his elder sister and husband, a nephew and wife, a niece and five children—were killed.

JeM founder Masood Azhar

However, unconfirmed sources said that 14 people were killed in Jamia Masjid Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur.

According to intelligence sources, over 80 terrorists were neutralised in the coordinated strikes by Indian forces, with the most intense operations being in JeM's Bahawalpur headquarters and at Lashkar-e-Taiba's main centre in Muridke, where 25-30 terrorists were killed at each of the locations.

It is also reported that a close aide of Azhar and his mother, and two other close associates were also killed in the Indian strikes.

ALL IN A DAY

11 AM

Following 'Operation Sindoor', PM chaired a Union Cabinet meeting. During the meeting, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh briefed the members regarding the strikes

2 PM

PM Modi met President Droupadi Murmu and briefed her on Indian armed forces' precision strikes at terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan & PoK

Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a virtual meeting with chief ministers and lieutenant governors of the states and the Union territories having borders with Pakistan and Nepal. Shah also talked to Directors General (DGs) of the BSF and SSB, and asked them to keep the forces on high alert and cancel all leaves of their personnel

5 PM

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met 13 envoys and representatives from UNSC member countries and briefed them on the attack. During the meeting, Misri made it "unequivocally clear that while India's strikes were proportional and focused solely on terrorist camps, any retaliatory action by Pakistan will promptly draw a decisive Indian response

THE CHOSEN NINE

SAWAI NALA CAMP — **1 MUZAFFARABAD:** Located in PoK, 30 km from the LoC, it was a key LeT training facility. The recent Pahalgam attack was carried out by a terror module which was incubated at Sawai Nala

SYEDNA BELAL CAMP — **2 MUZAFFARABAD:** A Jaish-e-Mohammad camp, it was being used as a staging area. It trained terrorists in weapons, explosives and jungle cum survival techniques for terror attacks in J&K

GULPUR CAMP — **3 KOTLI:** Located 30 km from LoC, it was the LeT base for operating in Rajouri-Poonch. Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, 26/11 mastermind, frequented it for indoctrination and motivational speeches

ABBAS CAMP — **4 KOTLI:** Located about 13 km from LoC, it was the nerve centre for training LeT suicide bombers. This camp had training infrastructure for about 50 terrorists

BARNALA CAMP — **5 BHIMBER:** Located 9 km from LoC, it was used for providing training to terrorists in weapon handling, IED making and jungle survival techniques

SARJAL CAMP — **6 SIALKOT:** Located about 6 km from the International Border. Terrorists who killed four J&K policemen in March 2025 were trained and launched from this camp

MEHMOONA JOYA CAMP — **7 SIALKOT:** Located 12 km from IB, this was a key training facility of Hizbul Mujahideen. Was used as the control centre to revive terror in Kathua and Jammu region

MARKAZ TOIBA — **8 MURIDKE:** Located 25 km from IB, it was the LeT HQ. Terrorists Ajmal Kasab and David Coleman Headley involved in 26/11 were trained here

MARKAZ SUBHAN — **9 BAHAWALPUR:** Located around 100 km from IB, it was Jaish-e-Mohammad's HQ. Was frequented by Masood Azhar who issued directions to the cadre from this camp

25
Minute operation to take out Pak terror infra

16
Airports, including Srinagar, temporarily shut after Indian strikes on Pak

250
Flights cancelled during the day | P9

India apprises China, key world powers; stop conflict, says Don

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

FOLLOWING precision strikes on nine terror camps, India on Wednesday launched a diplomatic outreach to key global powers, including China, to assert its firm stance against cross-border terrorism.

Shortly after the strikes concluded in the wee hours on Wednesday, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval reached out to US NSA Marco Rubio, UK NSA Jonathan Powell, Saudi NSA Musaid Al Aiban, UAE NSA Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed, UAE National Security Council Secretary General Ali Al Shamsi, Russian NSA Sergei Shoigu, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Diplomatic Advisor to the French President Emmanuel Bonne, and Japan's NSA Masataka Okano.

Sources said the interlocutors were informed that the strikes were a calibrated response designed to deter further terror attacks. Doval briefed them on the "method of execution" of the operation, emphasising restraint and precision to avoid civilian casualties. During his call with Wang, Doval said India has won't escalate tensions but is prepared to "retaliate resolutely" if Islamabad does so.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also briefed his counterparts in Spain, Germany, France, Qatar, and others. Separately, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefed the envoys of 13 permanent and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Meanwhile, US president Donald Trump offered to mediate. "It is so terrible. I want to see them stop. They have done tit for tat. So, hopeful they can stop now. If I can do anything to help, I'll be there," he said.

India has no intent to escalate, but will retaliate resolutely if Pak does so
Ajit Doval, NSA

Col Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh | PTI

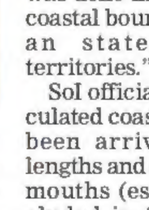
WOMAN POWER ON DISPLAY

India displayed its 'Nari Shakti' during a press briefing by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri as he was accompanied by Col Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh to give broader details of Operation Sindoor. While Col Qureshi is from the Army's Corps of Signals, Wg Cdr Singh is a veteran helicopter pilot who has also taken part in rescue ops | P9

Camp that trained Kasab razed down

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIAN forces on Wednesday confirmed that they have carried out 24 missile strikes on nine terror training camps located across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir including Muridke, where 26/11 Mumbai terror attack operatives Ajmal Kasab and David Coleman Headley were trained.



Ajmal Kasab

While briefing the media, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi presented video evidence of the destroyed training camps, including footage from Muridke (Lashkar-e-Taiba headquarters) and Bahawalpur (Jaish-e-Mohammad headquarters).

Colonel Qureshi also confirmed that it was at the Muridke facility that provided terror training to Kasab and Headley.

ROHIT CALLS IT A DAY AS INDIA TEST CRICKETER

THE WORLD CUP-WINNING CAPTAIN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AHEAD OF THE 5-TEST SERIES IN ENGLAND

- "Hello everyone, I would just like to share that I am retiring from Test cricket. It's been an absolute honour to represent my country in whites. Thank you for all the love and support over the years. I will continue to represent India in the ODI format," he posted on Instagram with a picture of his Test cap | P15
- The 38-year-old was one of India's most prolific Test openers, scoring 4301 runs in 67 Tests with 12 hundreds and 18 half centuries at 40.57
- He has already retired from T20 cricket. He will continue to play and captain India in ODIs. Rohit led India to Champions Trophy triumph in Feb 2025

SHUBMAN OR BUMRAH TO LEAD IN ENGLAND?

With just over a month left for India's five-Test series to begin against England in England, it needs to be seen who selectors name as captain. Shubman Gill seems to be the front-runner but mercurial Jasprit Bumrah could also retain his position as skipper

India's coastline much longer, finds SoI study

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE latest study by the Survey of India (SoI) and the National Hydrographic Office (NHO), using accurate satellite imagery data, has revealed that the total length of India's coastline is 11,098.81 km and not 7,516.60 as what a manual survey conducted in 1970 showed. It also showed that Karnataka's coast extends to 343.30 km as against 320 km.

The report is based on the assessment done using satellite data to the scale of 1:2,50,000 with the help of the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), and taking into account 1,389 islands that were added to the list before the latest survey was conducted.

The latest survey, and the next planned coastal zonal integrated project which will better assess areas using more sophisticated technologies, are expected to help in understanding the land available to take up infrastructure projects such as roads, ports and green corridors and boost tourism with the added islands and areas tapped for higher revenues.

Upkar Pathak, Technical Secretary, Survey of India (SOI), said, "The state, central and international boundaries are defined and set. They have been reiterated and redefined using accurate satellite images and measurement methods. The length also altered with the addition of 1,389 islands/islets to the list, which were not included when the survey was done in 1970 to define the coastal boundaries of all Indian states and Union territories."

SoI officials said that re-calculated coastline lengths have been arrived at after the lengths and shapes of the river mouths (estuaries) were included in the latest assessment. It also included the curves and zig-zags of the coastlines, which were not taken into account during the 1970 survey.

P5

EXPRESS READ

Praveen Sood gets a yr more as CBI Director

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday extended the tenure of CBI Director Praveen Sood by one year. Sood took over as the CBI director on May 25, 2023 for a two-year term. Sood was serving as DGP in Karnataka when he was named as director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) | P3

MUDA: Spl court upset with Lokayukta police

Bengaluru: The special court to try criminal cases against sitting and former MPs/MLAs on Wednesday expressed displeasure over the manner in which the Lokayukta police sought adjournment of hearing in the MUDA case | P4